# The Plays of Panchathantra



Dr. Vijaya Subbaraj





Translated by Dr. Vijaya Subbaraj



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#### **My Word**

Panchathantra, a Sanskrit work by Vishnusharma is universally acclaimed treasure house of stories, is well known throughout India and outside. It is known not only for interesting stories, but also for its political preaching or techniques of statecraft through stories, it describes five political strategies which are very important for a king in able administration and also in dealing with foes and friends in political circles.

The stories, numbering in five are made so interesting by introducing animal characters. They are humanised that they talk, think, behave like real human beings. All animals and birds are portrayed with human emotions and sentiments. They also have merits and demerits like human beings. That is the reason that in this work human beings and animals are brought together with in the framework of stories.

The stories deal with five strategies or principles. The stories were mainly construed with the objective of making the sons of a king who were lazy and dumbwaiters into intelligent and able administrators as well as better human beings.

When we come to think of antiquity of this work, Panchatantra, it is traced back to the times of Rigveda.

The stories of Panchathantra are translated into almost all languages of the world. This itself is enough to establish its importance and popularity.

The five strategies are `The Loss of Friends', `The Winning of Friends', `The Crows and the Owls', `The Loss of Gains', `Ill considered Action' - These five strategies, in this present book are given, not in the form of regular stories but are given in the Drama or play form, in view of making more interesting though dialogues.

It is only an attempt to make it different and facilitate students to present it as a play.

Hope this work will receive good response and make my attempt successful.

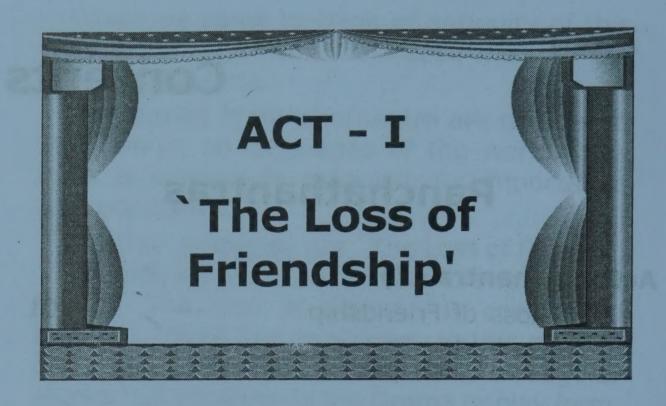
All this I ventured because of my publisher, friend Mr. Karthikeyan, who without a second thought braved to publish this `Panchatantra' in play form. So my sincere thanks to him and his encouragement.

Dr. Vijaya Subbaraj

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#### **Characters**

Narator

Girl

Vishnusharma

Mahabala : Minister

Amaraksha : The King

Atibala : Minister

Bahushakthi

Ananthashakthi >: Princes

Ugrashakthi

Karataka : Fox } Lion King's Ministers

Damanaka : Fox } Libit King s

Pingalaka : Lion King

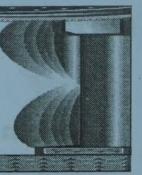
Sanjeevaka : Bull

Vardhamanaka : Rich Merchant

Gopalaka : Servant



# The Plays of Panchathantra



(The Narrator or Sutradhara comes on stage and addresses the audience in the theatre. Most of the audience are children. They have come to watch the play. The narrator sings a song on Ganapathi)

**Narrator** 

Elephant faced tiny eyed

Oh Ganapa!

Beloved son of Lord Shiva

Oh Ganapa!

Protector of the universe

Oh Ganapa!

Sing thy glory in universe

Oh Ganapa!

Pray you bless us the success

Oh Ganapa

Far away you keep the hurdles!

Oh Ganapa

The play we act is

for thy honour

Oh Ganapa

(Song stops. He comes to the front stage addresses the Audience)

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Narrator

: Oh! Dear little children, I hope you all have come to witness the play. What play shall we see today?

( From the audience, a little girl's voice is heard)

Girl

: Uncle we want to see Panchathantra. Will you show us the Play?

Narrator

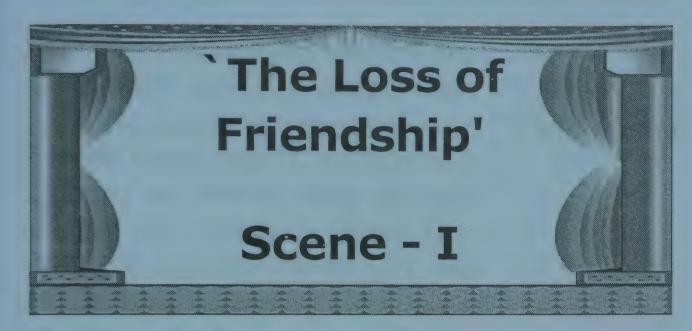
: Lovely my child! You have rightly chosen. You calmly be seated, I shall see if my actors are ready. You tighten your belts. Me and my actors now will take you back to long long years.

(From back stage - voice is heard. Sir we are ready)

**Narrator** 

My! My! If I don't retire immediately my actors will break my bones. So I will go now... Enjoy dears. (Retires to back stage)

\* \* \* \*



(Court Hall. Amaraksha, the King is seated on the throne. But he looks sad and depressed. On either side, his favourite ministers are seated. One of his favourite minister Mahabala stands up, salutes the King and speaks)

#### Mahabala

: Your majesty seems to be worried. May we ask you the reason for this worry! Tell us your majesty what worries you. We will do the best we can.

#### Amaraksha

Of course I must share my worries with you. You are my well wisher; my guide. As you all know, my worry is about my sons. You know they are dumb wits, irresponsible. Still they are childish. Nothing gets into their heads. They are neither interested in studies nor in state matters. If this is the situation, how can I entrust the kingdom to them? My dear friends, tell me is

there a way to transform them into responsible and wise children?

#### Mahabala

: Your majesty, unnecessarily you are worried. In the world there is nothing that cannot be changed with better guidance, any thing or any person will change to better. Your sons are still young and playful, your majesty. Lose no hopes. We will think of some way to change them to responsible persons.

#### (Atibala, another minister gets up and speaks)

#### **Atibala**

: Your majesty, what my friend told is correct. All we need is a good teacher. I know one by name Vishnu Sharma. He is very learned and an efficient and excellent teacher. I am confident, he would transform any dumb wit and dull head into a smart one; an intellectual one.

#### **Amaraksha**

: (With anxiety) Oh! Is that so! Then why delay. If he succeeds in his attempt as you believe, I shall gift him half my Kingdom!

#### Mahabala

: Yes your majesty. What my friend said is not only true, Pandit Vishnu

Sharma is more than that. He is a great scholar. Well versed in all subjects, including `Arthashastra (science of state craft). With his knowledge and dedication to teaching, there can be no doubt of our princes changing into to great wits.

**Atibala** 

: Your majesty, if you are convinced of our suggestion, shall we send for the Pandit?

Amaraksha

No! No! Friends. Gurus are not to be ordered. We ourselves along with our sons will go to his Gurukula, put across our problem, seek his guidance. I want two of you to come along with me.

**Atibala** 

: Yes your majesty. What you said is true. Scholarship should be honoured and not ordered. We will be pleased to accompany you, your majesty.

**Amaraksha** 

: Then let us start tomorrow morning at the right moment.

**Both** 

Ministers: Yes your majesty, as you say.

(The curtain falls)



(Gurukula. Pandit Vishnusharma is sitting under a tree. He is deeply immersed in reading palm leaves. All around Ashram, there is peaceful calmness. Little distance from the tree, two or three pupils or disciples are watering plants.)

(King and ministers arrive, stop their chariot little away from gurukula. Walk their way to Vishnusharma. Pandit does not observe their arrival. Amarakasha and ministers, offer their respects and speak)

Amaraksha: Sir, I the King salute you.

(Vishnusharma on hearing the voice suddenly lifts his head and notices the King)

V. Sharma : Oh! King I am honoured by your

visit.

King: No sir, Don't say that. In fact

I am honoured by visiting you. Because kingdom and riches are

nothing before scholarship.

V. Sharma: To say this is your greatness. Tell

me what can I do for you?

**King**: Sir, these are my sons. They are

innocent. They know nothing. I

want you to make them wise and learned. Prepare them for able administration of the kingdom. They are dumb wits. It may be a great task and challenge for you. But still I rest my hopes on you.

#### V. Sharma

(Watching the princes standing and giggling unconcerned of the place and people (Smiles). King, I can assess the amount of worry you can have regarding your sons. Mentally they have not grown more than a child. They need a special way of learning. They may be having aversion to learning. But no matter. You need to have no worry. I take this task as a challenge, and promise you that I will bring back your sons to your place within six months, as most intelligent, well read and well learned, particularly in state craft which is the most important one.

#### Amaraksha

Sir, I am most pleased. The confidence which you have given makes no bounds for my happimess.

#### V. Sharma

King, leave your children here. You can go back to your kingdom with assurance.

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King

: Thank you Sir. Once again I have to say that there can be nothing great in the world than to see my children worthy and wise... I will take leave of you sir.

(The King and the ministers leave the place.)

\* \* \* \*



(Ashram. Guru seated as usual under a banyan tree. The three princes are sitting right infront of him)

V. Sharma: O princes, you know why you have

come here?!

Princes: No sir, but we want to go and play.

Don't make us sit here. We are bored. Why do you keep us here.

Where is our father?

Anantashakti: We want to go away to our palace.

(I Prince)

Bahushakti: Yes we want to go.

(II Prince)

V. Sharma : Don't you want to learn anything

and become good and intelligent?

Princes: No! No! Please let us go. We can't

stay here in the forest like place. We don't want to learn anything.

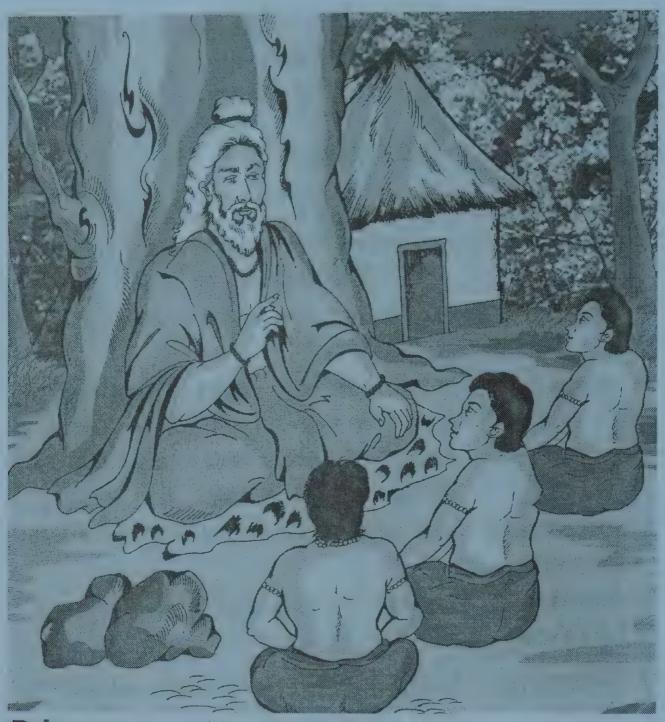
It is boring to read and write.

V. Sharma: (Smiling) OK! OK. If you don't

want to write and read, I shall make you watch the plays. Hope

you like to watch the plays!

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**Princes**: Yes sir, we like that.

Anantashakti: Sir what is the story of the play?

V. Sharma

Oh! Dear princes, I am happy to see you so eager to listen the story and see the play. I shall present before you the Panchathantra stories in play form. You know Pancha means five and `Tantras'

means doctrines of conduct or modes of action.

Another

**Prince**: Sir, what those five Tantras are?

V. Sharma: They are 'The Loss of Friendship'

The Winning of Friendship; The Crows and Owls; The Loss of Gains; Ill Considered Action. Now we shall see the play on 'The Loss of Friendship'. The main hero of the play is wicked Jackal. Now I will

call Sutradhara.

(Turning and looking into Ashram he calls out. Sutradhara! Sutradhara.)

(Sutradhara appears)

Sutradhara: Sir, I know why you have called

me. The (players) Actors are ready. We begin it now. I want all of you

to move to the open theatre.

(Vishnusharma and the Princes get up and walk towards the open stage)

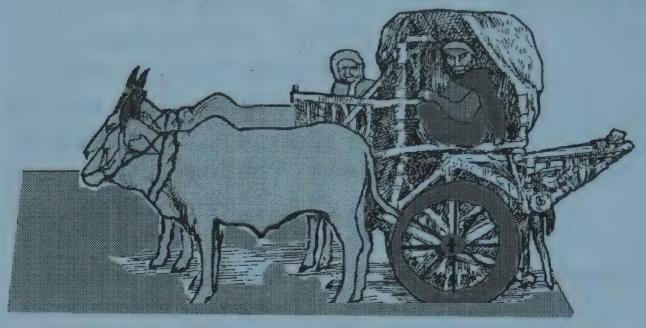
Vardhamanaka a merchant loads his cart with many goods 'yokes his bulls to the cart 'comes to the front stage. Speaks

Vardhamanaka: I am Vardhamanaka, a rich

merchant. Though I am rich, I cant sit idle. I want to set off to distant

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places to sell my goods and earn more money. I cant keep my money idle, rather I should circulate it and earn profit. Here I go... (Saying he moves his cart.)



(After travelling some distance in the jungle one of the bulls, Sanjivaka, out of tiredness, slips and the harness snaps)

Vardhamanaka: O my! What has happened to my

dear bull, if it is injured? (Looks down and notices the legs of the bull hurt) Oh God! How can I continue my journey? Will he get

better by tomorrow!

Gopalaka : Sir, I don't think it would recover

by tomorrow. It is badly hurt.

Vardhamanaka: (worried) then how am I to go on

my journey. I can't wait until

Sanjivaka gets better. I must move

on. (Thinking for a while) Gopalaka you and your friend stay with him, until he gets better. I will buy another strong bull in the next village and proceed.

Gopalaka

: Sir, have no worry. You can trust us. We take care of him. You can proceed on your journey sir.

Vardhamanaka

Thank you friends. I am happy and relieved. Here I go. (he leaves the place.)

Gopalaka

: (Watching the master go, speaks to his friend)

Hello friend. The master is gone. We shall also go. Any way the bull is not going to recover. How long should we wait. If the master asks, we shall tell him that he died.

Friend

: O.K. Friend, as you say.

(Within few minutes, both the friends follow the merchant leaving the injured Sanjivaka to his fate)

(After some days)

Sanjivaka

: (Looking all around) Wonderful! Green! Green! Green! Where ever I turn I am finding greenery in plenty. I can eat as much grass as I want. No one to prevent me. I



am free. No beatings; No work; No harness; No cart pulling! I am the happy one. Ahha! hha! hha.

(Saying loudly bellows)

(Little distance from there, Pingalaka, the Lion King of the forest is seen drinking water from the flowing river)

**Pingalaka** 

: (on hearing the bellow) Good God! What sound is this! I have never heard such a sound before. I am really frightened. I must run from here, lest some thing may happen. (So saying runs on heels.)

(At the same time two jackals Damanaka, Karataka comes out from the hiding place)



**Damanaka** 

(To Karataka) Friend, did you see how our Lion King ran in fright! What must have made him so frightened! Some how I must find out the reason.

Karataka

: Friend, don't you have any better business? Why should you interfere in others matters. Already we are victims of King's anger. If some thing untoward happens, we are finished. Let us mind our own business and think of the way to earn the grace of the King. Let us not be like meddlesome monkey.

Damanaka

What is that meddlesome monkey.

Karataka

Don't you know the story? Then listen, once there was a monkey who always used to do some

mischievous things and get caught in the muddle and suffer. But even then he did not learn a lesson. Once the two carpenters were working on a log of wood, when the lunch time came, carpenters who were sawing the log of wood, placed a wedge to stop the gap from closing and they left the place for lunch. At that moment, the meddlesome monkey caught sight of the wedge in the log and felt curious. Immediately came to the place and tried to pull the wedge, sitting on the log. Suddenly the wedge came out but alas! the tail hanging in the gap, got trapped. However it tried to pull the tail, it did not come out. Instead the monkey died.

**Damanaka** 

Friend I do understand your concern about me. But he is our King. As a good subject it becomes necessary for us to protect him from dangers. Hence I go to find out the reason. Whether you come or not I am going to meet the King.

(Damanaka leaves the place. Karataka remains still watching in the direction of Damanaka's departure)



## (Lion's cave. Lion is sitting sorrowfully. Enters Damanaka)

Damanaka: Oh King! Your humble servant

Damanaka salutes you.

Pingalaka : (Rising the head) Oh! You! What

made you come here?

Damanaka: King, as I told you, I am your

humble servant. Always concerned about your well being. Of late, I saw you worried. You seem to be gripped in some kind of fear. Many a times, though I thought of coming to you, I was nervous. But still I made up my mind to meet

you today, since I am your loyal

well wisher. May I be permitted to

speak to you!

Pingalaka : Oh Damanaka, I am pleased with

your humility and concern about my well being. Fear not. Speak up

what ever you want.

Damanaka : Thank you! (He bows down his

head before the King) I was sitting

on the other side of the river yesterday, suddenly I heard some sound and saw you running. I was wondering, what made you run so frightened. I was very much concerned about you. Hence I wanted to meet you and enquire what the real reasons are?

#### Pingalaka :

Oh friend! How good you are! I believe in your words, and let you into my secrets. While I was drinking water, I suddenly heard a loud noise like a thunderbolt, which was really frightful. I ran to save my self, before any fierce Animal or Demon catches me.

#### **Damanaka**

: Yes, Yes, I too heard the noise but did not know what caused the noise. Sir, it is after all only the noise! Why should one fear for mere noise. There may not really be anything as you have been imagining. To illustrate I will tell you a story. There was a hungry Jackal, which was roaming in search of food. Suddenly he heard a loud booming sound and got frightened. He looked here and there but no one was in sight. But

still, he hid himself to avoid the attack of fierce Animal. After some time the noise subsided. He peeped out from the hiding place, noticed no one. But saw a huge war drum, thinking that it may contain lot of food; he marched towards it and gnawed the leather side of the drum, crawled into it. To his surprise there was no food at all! He was very much disappointed. But one thing he learnt is, not to fear for mere sounds and noises.

Pingalaka

: So, you mean to say that I also should not fear for the sound and walk without fear.

Damanaka

: Yes King! You got it right. It is the duty of the servants like me to protect their protector from all harm. So there is nothing great in my doing.

Pingalaka

: (The lion) once again I am pleased with you.

Damanaka

Thank you King. I am honoured with your words. May I take leave of you!

(Saying he bows down and walks from there)

# (Damanaka walks here and there and finally comes back to his friend Karakata who is eagerly waiting)

Karataka

: Hello! friend, how was your meeting with the King. Hope he did not yell at you!

Damanaka

: (in surprise) what! He yelling at me? No chance, instead he was over pleased with me for my concern about him. He talked about the strange and fearful noise. But however I filled courage in him, told him that I would find out the cause for it, and so he need not worry about that.

Karataka

: So we have an important work of finding out the cause.

(At that moment they hear the bellow of Sanjivaka. Both astonished, turn towards the direction of bellow)

Both

: (In surprise) Hey! Here we got the reason! It is the bull bellowing! my God! I really feel laughing at our King's fear. Come come... We shall go and speak to him.

(Both walk few steps, approach the Bull)

**Both** 

: Hello friend! Hope you are new to this forest region... We are friends.

We are called Damanaka and Karataka. How come you are here in the forest. We have never seen you before.

#### Sanjivaka

: Friends, I am Sanjivaka I was in the service of my master Vardhamanaka. I used to pull the goods cart. Once on our journey I slipped and fell. I was very badly hurt. So my master left me behind with his servants to look after me. But the servants left me uncared and went away. Any way with this I was more happy than before. Now I am free and have food in plenty.

#### Damanaka

: All that is OK. But to graze to your wish in this realm you should seek permission from our King.

#### Sanjivaka

: Why not friend? Why don't you yourself seek permission for me to meet him. I shall be much obliged.

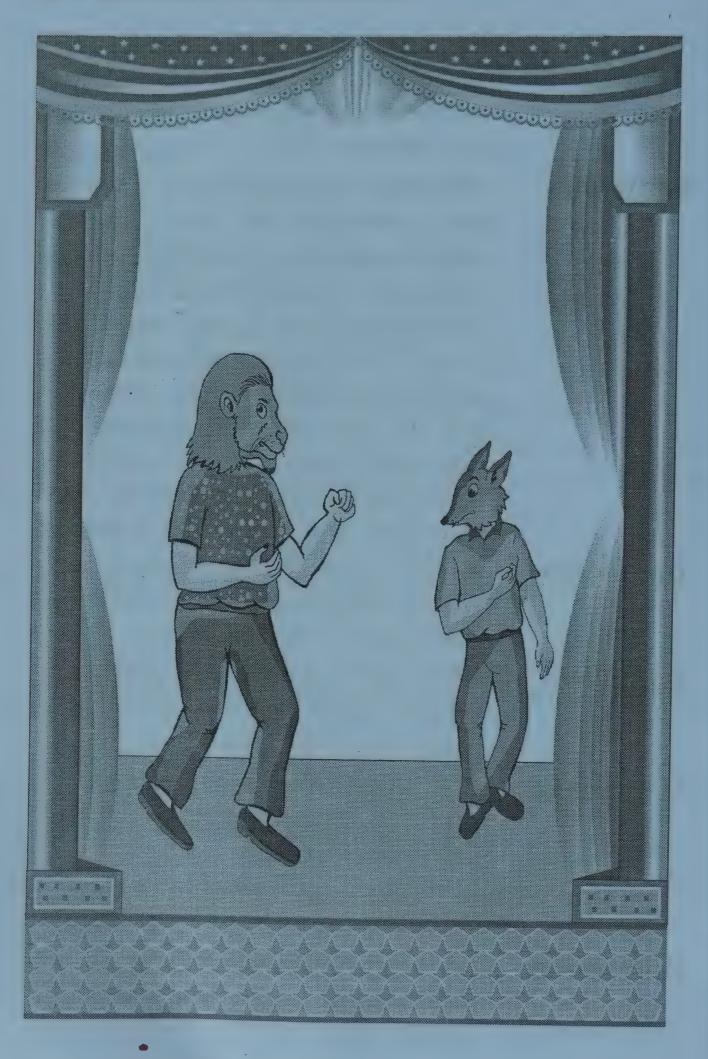
#### Damanaka

: O.K., O.K. You remain with my friend here and wait for me. I shall come back soon.)

(Lion's cave. Damanaka standing at the entrance of the cave, calls out to Pingalaka)

Damanaka: Oh King. I am back with all the information about the noise you heard.

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Pingalaka : (Rushing out of the cave) What did

you say? You know the cause!...

Come on tell me, I am eager.

Damanaka: Hold on King. Don't get excited.

The noise you heard is the bellow of Sanjivaka, the bull. When I told all about your greatness and also that you are the King, he expressed his wish to meet you and pay

respects.

Pingalaka : Is so; why don't you bring him

immediately to my presence.

Damanaka: Yes your honour, right now I will

go and bring him here.

(Saying he turns back... Few minutes later, he comes back, accompanied by Sanjivaka and Karataka.)

Sanjivaka stands little away from Pingalaka. He seems to be in fear. Damanaka going closer to Lion.)

Damanaka: Your majesty as for my word, I have

brought. I have instructed him, how to behave and pay respects. He said yes, but he told me at the same time that he is the Lord Shiva's mount and Lord Shiva himself has given him the permission to graze the grass

wherever he wants.

Pingalaka: What! Is that so? My... My... I am

really afraid then!

Damanaka: Why King? Do you think I will keep

quite if he speaks like that! I told him, if he is Lord Shiva's mount, you are Godess Parvathi's mount...

Then he agreed to meet you, but

on one condition.

Pingalaka : What is that condition?

Damanaka: Nothing serious, but he wants you

do no harm to him. Now my job is over. You decide what you want in

this regard.

Pingalika : Damanaka bravo! You are the most intelligent of all my subjects, you

can promise him that you do no

harm to him.

Damanaka: (Coming to Sanjivaka, in whisper)
Sanjivaka, I have spoken to him.

You can meet him. Take care to see that you do no mistake, and earn his favour, so that both of us can live in peace and be happy. Don't suffer like Dantila, who though innocent had to suffer because of Gorambha's false allegations. But

however in the end the King knowing the truth about Dantila,

he was restored in the King's

favour. Remember this and go to him.

Sanjivaka : Yes friend, I take care.

(Comes to the front of Pingalaka)

My respects to you my lord!

**Pingalaka** 

I am pleased to invite you to my kingdom friend. Don't have any fear. I shall assure you that I will protect you from Wild Animals. This is the place where, however strong one may be, feel insecure, and need protection.

I am lucky that I have friends like Karataka and Damanaka, who will look after the state's affairs and will give you the company.



#### (Turning to Damanaka and Karataka)

What do you say friends.

Both : Yes your majesty, with your

decision we are honoured.

Pingalaka: So friends, in honour of our new

friend, let us all celebrate. Come into my palace, have no fear. I will

not eat you away.

Sanjivaka: Thank you King. May you prosper.

(All go into the cave. Curtain falls)

\* \* \* \*



# (Karataka, Damanaka sitting on a mound, seem deeply worried)

Karataka: Damanaka, what is wrong with

you. You are not looking cheerful

as usual.

Damanaka: Friend, I don't have anything new

to say. Even you know the reason,

then why ask me?

Karataka : May be I know it. But I don't get

so much depressed as you are. You are thinking only of our King

neglecting us, and keeping us

away from his secrets.

Damanaka: Yes you have thought all things

correctly. These days, he gives more importance to Sanjivaka than

us. All the secrets he shares with

him only.

Karataka: Yes... Yes... Sanjivaka also feeling

proud of being close to King. He has became very dependent. He

does not care for his kingly duties.

I don't know what will happen to him, if he continues like this.

Damanaka: What will happen! Sanjivaka himself will one day become the

King of the forest.

: No! No. We must never allow such thing to happen. We being the ministers, it is our duty to advice him and make him realise the mistakes.

Damanaka: Yes you are right. His mistakes are due to my mistake of introducing Sanjivaka to him. What happened to the Sage, should not happened to us.

Karataka : What happened to the Sage?

Damanaka: The Sage trusted his disciple too much, because he was looking too good. But in the end he was cheated by his own trust worthy disciple and regretted.

**Karataka**: Then what are you going to plan to separate them both.

Damanaka: I must plan something with my cunning brain, it may not be very difficult to bring the rift between them. Don't you know, that we can defeat the enemy better through

cunningness than with the volley of arrows.

### Karataka

: Damanaka, my dear friend, don't be in haste. Think calmly before you put your plans into action, lest they come to know and put you to death.

### Damanaka

Have no fear friend. If I am strong in my persistence, god will come to my rescue.

### Karataka

: Then I pray for you. You do your duty. Whether you succeed or not, the King one day will realise and appreciate you for your efforts.

### Damanaka

Thanks for praying and encouraging. If I have friend like you in all my distress and happiness, I have nothing to worry with the tricks. One can achieve anything impossible. So without letting out even the smell of our plans, we shall proceed and achieve our objective.

### Karataka

O.K. All the best my friend.

(They walk off in different directions)



(Pingalaka was resting alone, on a stone.
Damanaka steadily walks towards him.
Pingalaka who was not totally sleeping, feels some one approaching, opens half closed eyes and notices Damanaka)

**Pingalaka** 

: Hey friend, why are you feeling shy. Why do you hesitate. Don't you remember, I am your good friend. Why didn't you show up of late. You don't visit as frequent as you were doing early.

**Damanaka** 

: (With sad tone) What use of me to you King.

**Pingalaka** 

Come on! Don't say all that. Tell me, what made you come to me after such a long time!

Damanaka

: King I have no selfish motto. But when my King is allowing to break the rules or tress pass them, I felt it as a good subject, to inform and advise, I have come here.

**Pingalaka** 

Tell me what my weaknesses are, have no fear, speak frankly.

### Damanaka

: King, when I say things don't mistake me. Ever since I heard the words of Sanjivaka I am not able to sleep. With so much of goodwill, I brought him into your presence and introduced to you. But he forgot all that. Do you know what he said in confidence `friend, I share a secrete with you. I have the great ambition of becoming the King. So I will kill Pingalaka and become the King. You shall be my minister' these are the words he spoke.

### Pingalaka

: I can't believe. He is my trusted friend. He would not think like that, even in dreams. Never he did a thing that I could suspect.

### Damanaka

King, you do not know ambition makes any loyal or trustworthy friend or a family member disloyal and a traitor. Every one on this earth is a power crazy. They do not hesitate to stoop to any level and cause the harm. I don't understand what made you take him into confidence. If you are afraid of his strength, there is no reason for it. Because he cannot encounter a

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carnivore (flesh eating) Animal like you. After all he is a herbivorous (plants or grass eater). What strength will he have?

**Pingalaka** 

Your point of arguement do understand. But I have promised him, that I will do no harm to him. Then how can I break my word and kill him.





Damanaka

: All that I don't know. But first thing we did a mistake is taking an unknown person as a friend. You must be aware of a story where an innocent Flea dies for the fault of a King.

Pingalaka : O.K. I agree every thing, finally

what you want to say?

Damanaka: Nothing my lord. Except to say that

one should never distance their own, known people, lest they

perish.

Pingalaka : Damanaka, how can I know that

Sanjivaka has evil intentions

against me?

Damanaka: King if you watch any one closely,

and look into the eyes, the intentions of the persons can be easily noticed. Not only that, he told me even tomorrow he would kill you. Now I leave it to you to believe or not to believe. Think over

your future steps King. Here I go.

(Damanaka bows and moves off from there)



### (Damanaka enters calling out to Sanjivaka)

Damanaka: Sanjivaka, my friend where are

you?

Sanjivaka: (On hearing his name enters, looks

at Damanaka)

Oh! You my friend, what a surprise. Long since I saw you. Today really I am blessed since you, my friend graced me with your visit. What

can I do for you?

Damanaka: Keep aside doing anything for me.

First you think for yourself. Your safety is more important than the safety of the servants like me. We have no sleep, no rest. Ours is dog's life. We are watch dogs for

our masters.

Sanjivaka : Friend, you seem to be disturbed

and worried about something which you think cannot be shared with others. Don't keep me in

suspense.

### **Damanaka**

Minister' position is very difficult. They cannot give bad advice, at the same time, cannot disclose the state secrets. If he does either of the things, he will go to hell. But for the sake of friend, I can't but tell you the secret. It is on my advice, King took you into the service in the Royal household. But now you know, he is having evil intentions. To keep the people in the Palace happy, he wants to kill you. I told him this is not fair. Stabbing in the back of a friend is not good I said.

### Sanjivaka

To kill me, what crime have I done. I have always been a faithful one. Always I thought for his good.

### Damanaka

There need not be any valid reason to harm a person, once he thinks bad of any one. The reason he gave is rather simple and stupid. He says that since you are a vegetarian and he a flesh eater, there can be no mutual and natural friendship. This I knew from the beginning. Now you decide, what you want to do?

### Sanjivaka

Friend, this looks not fair. With so much trust and commitment I served him. But in the end what did I get! There is one wise saying, one who serves the King, is like a bull without horns. Some of my enemies must have poisoned the King's mind regarding me.

### Damanaka

Don't get upset with the truth I revealed. Even now you can win back his favour talking to him sweet words.

### Sanjivaka

I don't think that is possible with a person who is surrounded by wicked people, more in number than the good ones whom you can count on fingers. So in my opinion, Good people should never serve a King surrounded by the wicked. I don't want to be in service with such masters. You being my best friend, I seek your advice.

### **Damanaka**

I sincerely feel that, you should leave the country, if you want to save your life.

### Sanjivaka

What! Should I leave the country! No! No! When the King is angry, it is not wise to leave the place. Even if I dare to leave, it will not be a big problem for the King to reach me where ever I will be. So I feel, only alternative is to go for war with the King.





### Damanaka

(Aside) (My God! If he goes to war I am finished. Not only me, even the Lion King will not survive. The bull with his horns will throw us away in no time. I can't even imagine the disaster that is going to befall. So I must some how influence him to leave the country) Friend If you want to go for war you can. But don't you feel that, a servant going to war with his master is unfair and not befitting. Moreover King's strength cannot be underestimated. Suppose he over powers and kills you, what do

you think, you have achieved?... I tell you, wise is the one who heeds the advice of his well wishers and foresee the dangers in his hasty decisions. Don't simply trust the luck, believe not in fate. If you do so you are doomed. Without knowing the strength of his enemy, going into war is like inviting destruction of one's own.

### Sanjivaka

: Tell me then what should I do? How will I know Kings mind, his evil intentions?

### Damanaka:

Oh! It is all easy. If he stares at you in anger, you will know that he has evil intentions. Suppose, he behaves normal, you can think that he is as friendly and affectionate as usual. If you plan to leave the place, do it in the night. Individual sacrifices are needed for the sake of, for the good of community, country and also for some values.

### Sanjivaka

Thank you friend for your kind and wise advice. I will now go home. Think for a while and take decision. (Saying he goes)



# (Damanaka comes to visit Karataka, standing at the door of Karataka hails him, `Karataka...)

Karataka : (In surprise) Oh! You!! You seem

to be happy. Hope you have

succeeded in your mission.

Damanaka: The result is not yet known but I

have sown the seeds of discord among the two friends. You will not

see them together any more.

Karataka: Friend, with your work you may

feel happy and rejoice. But I don't like this kind of wicked deed.

Separating two good friends for the sake of your selfishness is not

praise worthy. All through I have been watching you. Not even once,

you have done a good thing to

anybody. Harming and creating rift

seems to be your nature, and also

your profession.

Damanaka : My friend, in politics these are all

welcome. This is one of the political

strategies to encounter eliminate enemies. I am against Sanjivaka unreasonably. There is a strong reason for me to go against him. For no fault of us we were ripped off of our ministership. Isn't this enough to hate him. In fact I won the assurance for him that he will not be harmed for any reason. But even then, forgetting all the help done to him, he got the King throw us out. I will not spare him. I will kill him if at all he wants to save his life, he should immediately leave the place and the Palace. There can be no other remedy for him.

Karataka

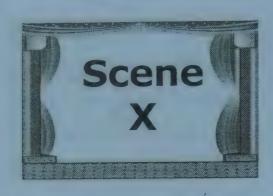
: What ever my friend, I do not approve of your deeds. In the light of politics, one may appreciate your wisdom, but to harm an innocent one like Sanjivaka, I feel bad... Shall we go and see what Sanjivaka is doing?.. Come let us go. (They go)



### (Sanjivaka restlessly moving from one end to the other)

### Sanjivaka

(In Soliloquy) Why did my King think me as his enemy. While joining his service I should have thought for myself, herbivorous (plants or grass eater) like me will fit into the company of carnivorous or not. Now things have become serious, what shall I do? Where shall I go? But before anything, I must meet my King Pingalaka and convince him that I did no wrong and ask him the reason for his anger on me, also remind him of his assurance to protect me. Inspite of all efforts, if anything happens, I consider it as my fate. So let me go and meet him for the last time). (He goes)



# (Pingalaka is resting infront of the cave Palace. He looks rather angry. Sanjivaka enters. As usual bows down with respect)

Pingalaka: Oh! Sanjivaka!! Come prepared to

kill me?

Sanjivaka: King, I have no intentions of killing.

You know I am your trusted servant. I am not so mean as to kill one who has given shelter and

assurance to protect.

Pingalaka : May be! But now I can't believe

your words. You must be finished

before you try to finish me.

(Saying this he pounces on the Bull. Bull also fights back with his sharp horns. Right at the scene, Karataka, Damanaka appear)

Karataka : (To Damanaka

: (To Damanaka) Friend even now it is not too late. Before any one dies, go and stop the war. You are a fool to create rift between them. You don't know what diplomacy is, but you want to become the minister. You are a war monger. Cruel! You

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enjoy in the others destruction. But I tell you, you will never succeed in your deeds. You don't know what is good and what is bad. Go immediately, confess to King your foolishness and your tricks. Still there is time for peace. You say you are Pingalaka's obedient servant but when his life is in danger, you are watching it as fun. You are meanest of the mean. Even with me you can be treacherous as you have been with the Lion. I don't want any friendship with wicked people like you.

### (Saying, Karataka runs away from Damanaka's Presence)

(The Lion and the Bull severely fighting, try to kill each other. In the attempt Lion once again attacks fiercely and with his sharp claws he tears Sanjivaka's body and killed him)

Pingalaka

(over came with grief, laments) Oh! Sanjivaka! In a fit of anger and vengeance, I killed you, and lost a good friend of mine. I have done a crime as well a sin. There can be no excuse. God will definitely punish me.

Damanaka

Oh King, calm down. There is no reason to cry. He was treacherous; traitor. Thought of doing harm to his protector, King. He rightly deserves what you have done with him. You being a King, weeping over an ungrateful friend does not look good. So come out of your grief and repentance.

**Pingalaka** 

Friend, I thank you for your soothing words. But still some where in my mind I feel guilty. But however, I must resume my duties. In recognition of your timely advice, I declare you as my minister and advisor.

(The Play ends - Characters retire)

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### **V.Sharma**

: (With deep breath) So you see princes, how the Jackal Damanaka succeeded in bringing rift among great and close friends like Pingalaka and Sanjivaka. In state craft this is the strategy one should follow to destroy their enemies. Tell me, did you like the play?

#### **Princes**

: Yes Guruji (master). We want to see some more of such plays. These are very interesting to watch.

### V. Sharma

: Very good, I am happy to see you people interested in the plays. Well, as I told you earlier to run the administration smoothly one should be aware of the ruling strategies or techniques. Today you saw breaking friendship. Tomorrow we shall see another Thantra, i.e. the strategy followed to win friends. Now let us go and rest for a while. Our Suthradhara will set the stage for the second play.

(They all get up and retire)



### **Characters**

Laghupatanaka: King Crow Chitrangriva: King Dove

Hiranyaka : Chitragriva's Friend (Mouse)

Mandaraka : Laghupatanaka's Friend (Tortoise)

Children Sutradhara

### (Suthradhara enters, talks to audience.)

Suthradhara: Dear friends, I think you enjoyed the play along with the princes. Now we will move on to the Vishnu Sharma's place and watch the second play called `Gaining friends or Mitralabhah' Over to play we go (He disappears).



(There is a huge Banyan Tree. Various kinds of birds are seen fluttering their wings. At that time a hunter enters and spreads the net, sprinkles grains and disappears from there, hides behind a huge Tree. Laghupatanaka a crow peeping out of his nest, watching the hunter, talks to self)

The Crow

: Oh God! How wicked the man is! I must warn my friends and neighbours to keep away from the site of the net. (Hails the birds) friends, please listen to me don't come down for grain. There is net spread. You will all be caught and killed.

(Hearing the warning all birds remain wherever they are. But a group of Doves along with their leader Chitragriva ignoring the warning of the Crow, comes down for the grains, and gets caught in the net. The Doves cry out in panic)

Chitragriva: Friends, don't get frightened. Keep cool, and we shall all fly along with the net and land some where in a

lonely place. If we don't fly now, we will all be finished.

### (The Doves along with the net fly. The hunter and Laghupatanaka also follow the Doves)

Hunter

: Oh God! How they are all flying! If they don't divide, I can never reach them, and get back my net.

(For some distance the hunter chases and finally disappears. Chitragriva's voice is heard)

Chitragriva: Friends, have no fear. The hunter is gone. Now let us call my friend Hiranyaka for help. He is the only hope. I am sure he is a real friend. He would definitely come to our help. (Shouts -'Hiranyaka! Hiranyaka')

Hiranyaka

: (Comes running) Tell me friend, what can I do for you?

Chitragriva

Don't you see friend, all of us are caught in the net. We want to come out.

Hiranyaka

: (In surprise) What is all this? How did all of you got into this net?

Chitragriva

: Friend, it is all the result of my foolishness. I am ashamed to say this. The greed of the grains put us into this trouble. Please let us

free.

Hiranyaka

: Don't worry, I will help you. If friends don't help each other in times of trouble, what use of friendship. Let me free you first.

## (Saying this Hiranyaka gnaws the net with his sharp teeth)

Chitragriva

No my friend. First I want you to free my subjects before me. Being a King, my first duty is to see the safety and welfare of the subjects than the self.

Hiranyaka

: Friend, I am thrilled to see your concern for your people. Only to test, I said I will free you first. You have to have the qualities of a good King, and you have all those qualities.

## (Laghupatanaka who was following and watching every thing, talks to self)

Laghu

How clever and intelligent the mouse is. One must be lucky to have a friend like this. Some how I must try to gain his friendship so that, in times of distress, a good friend like this would come to our help. Let me go and hail him) Hiranyaka... Hiranyaka...

Hiranyaka

: (From within the hole) Who is that? Why shouting?

Laghu

: Friend I am called Laghupatanaka, the Crow.

Hiranyaka

: Why are you calling me. I am nothing to you. Go away at once.

Laghu

: Friend, don't get angry I don't harm you. I want to talk to you something important. At least once you appear and listen to what I say.

Hiranyaka

: When I am no body to you. Why should I meet you. What do I gain by meeting you?

Laghu

: Of course you may not gain anything. But I gain a huge treasure of friendship. I saw you, how you helped Chitragriva and his people. I felt excited with happiness. I too want to have a friend like you who would come to our help in times of distress.

Hiranyaka

: What! (In surprise) you and me can ever make friendship? How could you think it possible? Friendship builds between two equals. But in this case both of us are enemies, you are the diner and I am the dinner. i.e. you are predator and I am a prey. Hence friendship is unthinkable,

unimaginable. It is not that I am saying all this. You must be knowing what elders say in the case of friendship.

Laghu

No friend, I am not as intelligent as you are. If you know please tell me what they say. I shall be very thankful to you for imparting some knowledge.

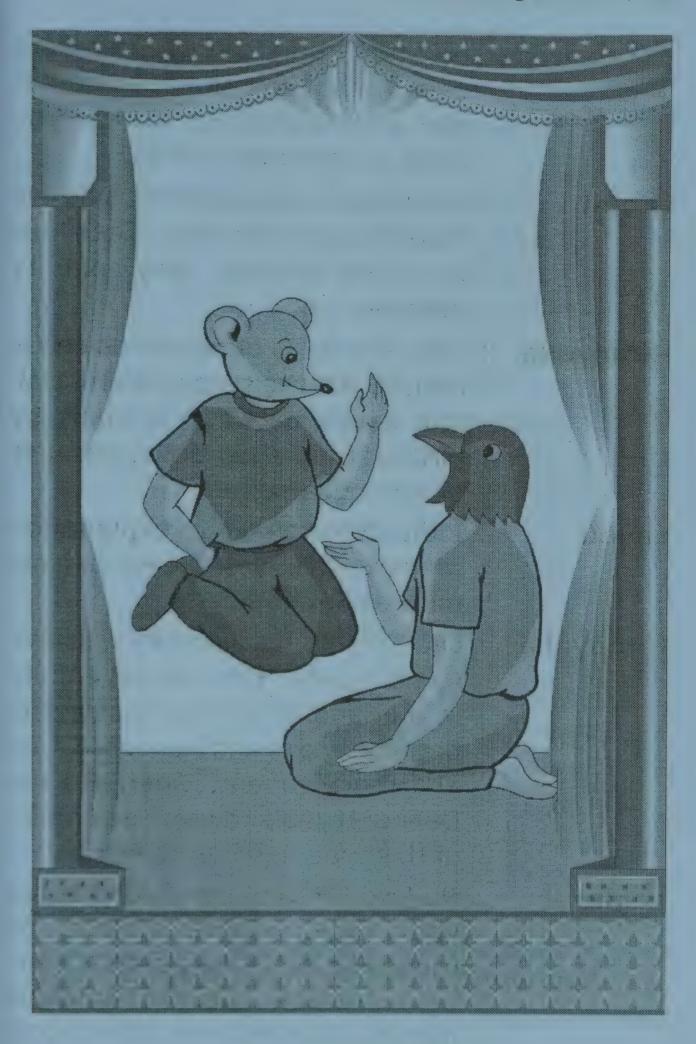
Hiranyaka

Then listen. The elders say that friendship or marriage should be between equals in caste, wealth, position, nature, thought and strength. It can never be a success between the weak and the strong, poor and the rich. If by any chance the friendship starts or builds between unequals they will be laughed and ridiculed. So you please go away without having any hopes of friendship.

Laghu

Hiranyaka, inspite of my requesting if you don't agree to extend your friendship, I will wait here in front of your doorstep and die.

Hiranyaka : I am telling you it is impossible. Born qualities, however one tries, will never die. Though water may



be hot, it puts off the fire. More over we haven't seen each other and understood. So how do you think we become friends.

### Laghu

: Hiranyaka, you yourself said we haven't met each other. Then how can you expect any enmity between us?

### Hiranyaka

: See, enmity is of two kinds one is natural and the second is artificial. one exists between Animals by birth and the other arises because of some quarrel.

### Laghu

I didn't catch your explanation properly. Will you please explain me clearly again?

### Hiranyaka

: OK. See, artificial enmity will have some reason. But natural enmity is the kind of enmity that exists between snake and Mongoose, Lion and the Elephant, Tiger and the Deer and you and me. The enmity of this type need no reason.

### Laghu

: No! No! Hiranyaka. I don't agree your logic. There cannot be friendship or enmity without any proper reason. I believe in making friends with every one. Wise people

always seek friendship and not enmity. I belong to this category. Why don't you believe my words.

### Hiranyaka

What you say may be true. But what is the guarantee that a man with wisdom and character like you, will not come to harm. Ignorant and illiterate person will not understand his opponent's character and calibre.

### Laghu

: Friend, I appreciate your analysis. I do agree that friendship with bad man is like a pot of clay, which will break easily. But friendship with good people is like a pot of gold which cannot break but even if breaks, you can mend it easily. There is a way for it. So, do please agree for friendship. I promise that I will never dare to hurt you even. In such a situation where is the question of killing?

### Hiranyaka

: What ever you say, however you convince, I don't have any faith in your promise. Faith also has its own limits. This faith itself may bring unforeseen evils and may destroy totally leaving no remains. The one who believes in trust,

however mighty he might be, gets killed even by the weakest.

### Laghu

Friend, whether you accept me as your friend or not, I consider you as my friend. If you have the fear of harm from me, you stay within the house itself. Only you talk to me from inside and give me advice on various matters if required; otherwise let us enjoy the conversation.

### Hiranyaka

: (Within himself) Aha! the Crow seems to be intelligent, knowledgeable being, that is the reason for him to seek my friendship (Answers).

O.K. friend, since you have been pleading so much, I do agree to be your friend but on the condition that you yourself suggested.

### Laghu

Thank you friend for agreeing to be my friend, though on condition! Let us talk delightfully and help each other. Here afterwards, I shall get you the delicious meat and left over food at temples and feasts.

Hiranyaka

Thank you. I too shall bring you grains of paddy and food items. You need not worry for your food.

Laghu

: Agreed! Now I shall go and meet you tomorrow.

(The Crow flies off)



(After some time, one day the Crow appears before his friend Hiranyaka. Hiranyaka notices him sad. Enquires)

Hiranyaka: Why friend, you are not looking

your usual way.

Laghu : (Crow) What to say friend. I am

fedup with the place. I can't even get two square meals. There is famine. People do not scatter food, they don't even offer food to their ancestors. Not only this, the hunters are after us with their nets to trap us. Some how I managed

to escape.

Hiranyaka : But leaving this place where can

you go?

: Some other place where my friends

are.

Hiranyaka: Who such friends, who can receive

you with unfolded arms?

Laghu : Little distance from here there, is

a lake. My friend Mandaraka lives

there. He is a very good friend of

mine. He will be very happy to see me and feed me. I can't see my people dying here with hunger, and getting killed by hunters.

Hiranyaka : Friend, I am also unhappy here. If

you don't mind I will also join you.

Laghu : Oh! If so I would be very much

delighted. But how can you follow

me.

Hiranyaka: No problem, I will sit on your back,

you fly. Both of us reach the place

of your friend.

Laghu : Wonderful! Thank you friend for

joining me. I was rather unhappy

to leave you and go.

(They fly in the sky and reach the Lake)

Laghu: (Standing at the Lake) Oh!

Mandaraka... Mandaraka, I am your friend Laghupatanaka. I have

come. Please... Come out.

Mandaraka: (Peeping out) Oh! My dear friend.

I am thrilled to see you after a long time. (Immediately notices the mouse) Hey, who this little fellow.

How come he is with you?

Laghu : Friend, he is also a great friend of

mine like you. When I said I am leaving the place for I was fedup

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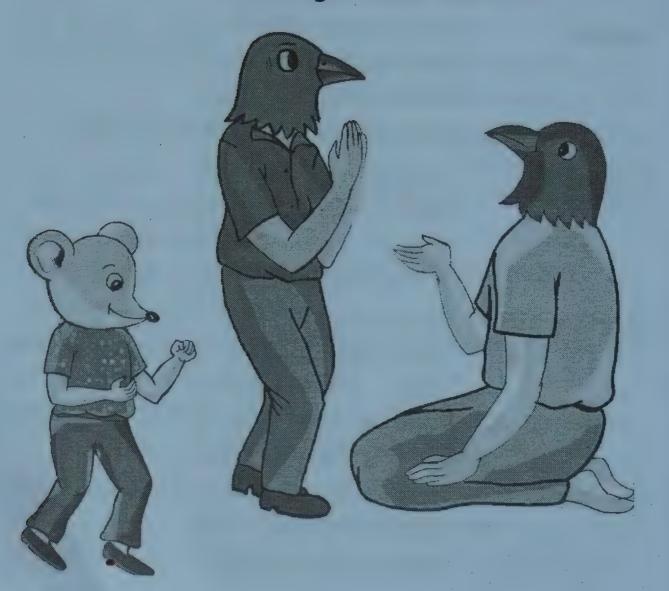
with the problems, he also expressed his wish to join me for the same reason. Hope you won't mind bringing another guest with me!

Mandaraka

No! No! Not at all. Guests are always welcome. But what actually made him so sad as to leave every one and come with you?

Laghu

: I really don't know. When I asked, he said, he would tell me after reaching the destination.



Mandaraka: Hello friend if you have no objection, tell us what kind of problems bothered you.

Hiranyaka

I am really happy to narrate my struggles and sorrows to friends like you. Listen, once I lived in a Temple of Lord Shiva. A Sanyasi(Sage) named Tamrachuda also lived nearby that shrine. Daily he would go for Alms. In the evening after he finished his food, the remaining food, he would reserve it for the cleaners of the shrine. But I would climb up, reach the begging bowl containing food, eat little and throw down the food for my followers below. I repeated act every day, Sanyasi(Sage) finding no food in the mornings got surprised. To find out the reason, he watched one day and detected what we were doing. Then on, to prevent us from going there he would keep on hitting the bowl.

One day an another Sanyasi came to Tamrachuda. They exchanged news, and later went to sleep. At that moment Tamrachuda

continued his regular habit of hitting the bowl and while doing so he was not attentive to the talk of the guest Sanyasi. So he became angry. But however, after confession and knowing the reason, he suggested him a plan. He said that he should locate the place of my dwelling, dig and throw away what ever is stored or stocked in the hole; because that was the reason to provide strength and courage to do such unwanted mischief.

Things happened as was expected. Many of my relatives escaped. I with vengeance tried to repeat my act of mischief. But failed. This made dejected me disappointed. They were successful in tracing my dwelling. To my bad luck a huge cat attacked us. All my followers deserted me. But once again I thought of trying at begging bowl. But Sanyasi noticed me and taught me a lesson that I would never forget. I accepted my fate. Now I am with you.

Mandaraka: Hiranyaka have no fear and hesitation. Forget the loss of wealth and the house. Whatever happens, you cannot change. Wealth is not important. Wealth does not remain permanently with us. Friendship is more valuable than the riches. You have such a nice friend. Though he was hungry, you being his meal, did not eat you away nor did he kill you. So make a friend of him who is not corrupt and comes to your rescue when you are in troubles.

Laghu

: Hiranyaka, my friend, did you see how well my friend Mandaraka speaks. He is wise. Listen to what he says. It is difficult to find a friend who speaks the truth though bitter to hear. But you find lot of friends who always speak sweet words that may not really be true.

Hiranyaka

Thank you friends. Really today we could know with our experience what is friendship! What is the value of it.

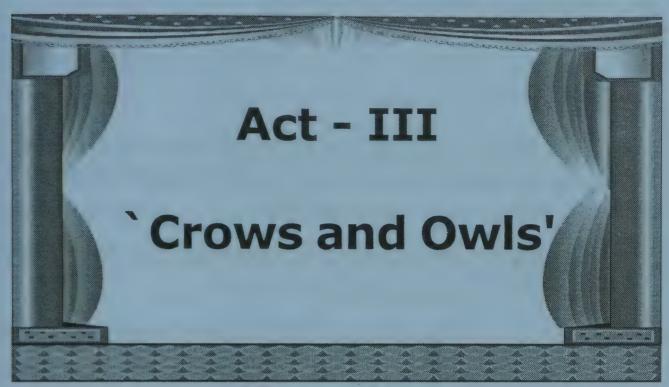
Mandaraka

So now we should remember what our elders said that he who is faithful to his friends shall never

taste defeat, and never cheat each other. Let us all happily live together and show to the world. What the worth of friendship is!!

Hira+Laghu: Yes... Yes.. You are right. Let us all swear to be real friends and never desert each other in all kinds of situations.

(They all swear)



#### **Characters**

Meghavarna Sanjivi Ujjivi Anujivi Prajivi Sthirajivi Arimardana Queen Owl Rakthaksha Krooraksha Deepaksha

Varkranasa

King Crow

Ministers of King Crow

King Owl King Owl's Wife

Miniters of King Owl

# (Vishnu Sharma and the princes are all sitting, ready to watch another play based on 3rd Strategy)

V. Sharma: Princes, did you enjoy the play

yesterday?

Princes : Yes Guruji (Sir). Both the plays are very good. Today also you are

showing us the play isn't?

V.Sharma: Yes Princes. In both the plays you

saw how a friendship is broken and how a friendship is bonded. In times, we need friends. But only thing is we must be careful in choosing friends. There are friends who always remain friends all through. But some make friendship only for their selfish motives. So one has to be cautious while extending friendship, that too when they had been your enemies earlier.

**Princes** 

: Guruji what play are we going to

watch today?

V.Sharma : You will watch the play called

Crows and Owls'

Sutradhara: (Enters) Dear Audience are you all

ready to watch the play that our

princes are going to watch?

Audience : Yes! Yes!. We are eager to watch.

Sutradhara: Then I will not stay between you

and the play. There you see, the

play is beginning. (Disappears)

\* \* \* \*



(A forest. Huge Banyan Tree with number of branches. Many kinds of birds have made the Tree as their home. Their King Meghavarna has built a strong fortifications to protect young ones. Nearby there is a colony where in Owls have been living. Meghavarna looks sorrowful. Sitting round Meghavarna, his ministers Ujjivi, Sanjivi, Anujivi, Prajivi and others are seen.

Meghavarna: Oh ministers, you know the reason for this emergency meeting. Our enemies ruthlessly killing our tribe. If this continues for some more time, I think we will all perish without any traces.

Sanjivi

: Oh King, I can realise the seriousness of the problem. If by any chance, we wage war against them, the chances of victory is remote. Our enemies are powerful. Enemy King Arimardana is very strong. He attacks and strikes when we are at our weakest point. So instead of inviting war, better we make peace with them.

#### Ujjivi

: O King, trying for peace or compromise, establish our fear and cowardice. In my opinion we should not go for peace that too with an enemy who is not just, for he may break his word and stab you in the back.

#### **Anujivi**

: King I agree with what Ujjivi said. Our enemy is not only strong but wicked also. Neither the war nor the trickery will work with him. So let us wait for proper moment. When they are seen at their weakest point we shall strike. But this moment I feel flight is the best alternative. We can live in some other place.

#### Prajivi

O King. I do not approve of any of these three suggestions by our honourable ministers. With the fear of our enemies, why should we leave our place. We shall stay in our homes only, it is our familiar place.

#### Chiranjivi

O King! I do agree with the suggestions of staying here itself. It is always better to stay in our familiar surroundings than staying elsewhere inviting unforeseen

problems. While staying here itself, we can watch the moves of our enemies and think of some strategies. We can even try to seek the support of allies stronger than the enemies.

Meghavarna: Thank you all for your suggestions. We will think it over on these carefully and take decisions. I shall send for you all for the second meeting. Now I think you can retire to your places.

(All the ministers bowing down to the King, leave the place. King turning to his old and experienced wise minister Sthirajivi says)

King

: Sir, I pray you stay back for a while. I want to have a talk with you.

**Sthira** 

: (Staying back) Tell me King, how can my services be useful to you?

King

: Sir, I think you have heard all the suggestions from our ministers. I asked them their opinions only to test their wisdom and know their mind. You are my father's trusted minister and the wisest of the wise people. Hence I need your suggestion as well as proper guidance in this situation.

Sthira

by them are exactly in tune with 'Nitisastra' (Ethics). They are good in general. But our present situation is somewhat different. Those strategies do not work. Now only way to defeat them is 'duplicity'. Strongest of the strong can be defeated only through sheer cunningness. Let us wait for the proper time, take advantage of his weak point and finish him off.

King

: Sir, your suggestion seems to be wonderful but only problem is that we do not know where our enemy Arimardana lives.

Sthira

: That may not be a big problem. We can deploy some clever spies.

King

: Sir, basically what is the reason for our enmity. I have not done any harm to them.

Sthira

: King, you do not know the reason. There is a big story behind it.

King

If you please, can you tell me the story.

Sthira

: King, it is a long story. But presently, I will tell you the reason in brief. The Owls are angry

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because you people prevented the Owl from becoming a King. Long long ago, when all the birds of the kingdom wanted to choose a King for them. Owl was almost choosen and he was about to be coronated, right at that moment one of your ancestors came and objected to it for the reason that the Owls are' ugly, and they cannot see in the day time. A King if from such tribe choosen, how can he take care of his subjects - was his question. All the birds thought on his words, and planned to choose another King and went away from there. This enraged the Owls, and since then they have taken an oath to destroy the tribe of Crows.

King

: O My! Is this the reason to kill us!... Then tell me sir, what should we do now?

**Sthira** 

: Do as I instruct you.

King

: Tell me sir.

**Sthira** 

: You pretend as if you are my great enemy. You quarrel with me as terrible as possible. Abuse me in whatever manner you want. You act in such a way that they would

be fooled totally and believe that we really have become enemies.

King Sthira

- : Afterwards, what should I do?
- : You fly with all your people to Rishyamooka Mountain and stay there until I come back, killing our enemies.

King

: Sir, I smell that the Owls, though cannot see, eagerly peeping out to hear what we speak.

**Sthira** 

: That is the reason, I am telling you to shout at me.

King

: (Heeding his advice) (loudly) I cannot bear any more of your treacherous acts. Since you were there from the time of my father, I have been silent, respecting your age. Now it is too much to bear. I did not expect this kind of treason (A crime that undermines the offender's government) from you. I am afraid I cannot keep you any more. I order an exile for you.

Sthira

O King, have respect for the elders.

Don't blame me as a traitor. I haven't done anything of that kind.

I did not expect such a treatment for a person like me who all through

the life has been a loyal servant. You are unjust to me. You are really ungrateful... Coward!

## (The other Crows who are witnessing the happening come forward and try to attack)

King

: (Loud) Stop friends. I shall deal with him myself. I don't need anybody's help. (Saying he moves closer and pretends to attack him)

## (blood is seen flowing from the minister but that is smeared blood.)

**Sthira** 

: (Pretends having hurt and dying. He groans loudly)

King

: Serves you right. Die here. We are leaving. (Saying this he along with his retinue takes a flight towards Rishyamooka Mountain).

## (As soon as the Crows fly off. The Queen Owl, tells her husband)

Q. Owl

Here, did you listen to the abuses showered on his old minister? They seem to be fighting for a long time. Both of them exchanged abuses. The Crow King was threatening to kill him. Perhaps by now he must have been killed. He also seemed to be in great panic. I heard him ordering his people to follow him.

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King Owl

: Oh! Is that so! Very good. Let all people get ready for the attack on the Crows who might be staying back, as soon as the sun goes down.

Q. Owl : Do you think that some may be left behind?

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King Owl : I really don't know. But let us try

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## (The King and Queen Owls are seen sitting and watching the situation)

King Owl

: Hey! All of them have gone away!
Now entire thing is ours. But if they
come back there may be some
problem.

Q. Owl

: Yes dear. We must take precautions. What shall we do, you think?

King Owl

: We can't sit thinking. We must follow them, stop their way, attack and kill them before they safely reach their new home. Any way, night times they can't even see. So they will not know us following.

Q. Owl

: Very good idea. Why delay let us start off.

**Sthira** 

: (In a piteous voice) O Arimardana, my friend... Come, help me.

King Owl

: (Wondering at the voice) Who is that (comes closer looks here and there)

Sthira

(coming out of the hiding place crawling and groaning) sir I am the minister of Meghavarna. See my fate for being loyal to him. I have left him. I want to have a talk with Arimardana, the King.

Arimardana:

I am Arimardana, tell me what you want to talk to me. What has happened to you? You are profusely bleeding. If you bleed for some more time, you will die.



**Sthira** 

: Yes I know, I am going to die. But I don't want to die. I want to avenge for what he has done. Is it the way to punish a sincere and trust worthy man for having given good advice?

Arimardana: What advice did you give?

**Sthira** 

I told him to accept your superiority and live in peace. But including the King none of them liked my advice. They got wild. Forgetting all that I did in the past, they attacked and made me like this. What a disgrace? Dishonour! I am not going to spare him. So I want your grace and refuge.

King Owl

Look! No doubt I pity you. But immediately I can't assure you anything. I shall discuss the whole matter with my wise ministers and let you know. Meanwhile my servants will attend to your wounds.

Sthira

: Thank you King. Hope you will not

desert me!

King Owl

: All right, you take rest I will return

to you after a while.

(The Owls move away from the place)



# (The Owl sitting on a high branch. Below him his five ministers are seated. Every one seems to be seriously thinking.)

#### King Owl

: You know why I called this urgent meeting. Our enemy's minister, breaking away from his King has come into our refuge. He is in a very bad condition. But still he wants to avenge his King. To fulfil this wish he wants to survive. So now I beseech your advice and your opinions regarding his request to take him under our protection.

#### Raktaksha I Minister

I think without much prolonging, we should immediately kill him. Because Crow is always a Crow. You cannot trust him as a friend that too when he had been a foe earlier. Don't get deterred by his sweet words, show of affection. Before he emerges as a danger, finish him off.

#### Krooraksha

**II Minister** 

No! No! You can't be so cruel. According to Nitisastra itself, any one, may be even an enemy comes and pleads for protection, he should not be turned out with disappointment. Like a dove in a story, one must be ready to sacrifice ones own life when it comes to the question of granting refuge to one in distress.

King Ow

(Turning to his another minister Deeptaksha)

What is your opinion in accepting the Crow into our protection?

Deeptaksha:

O King first of all we should never

(III Minister) Kill a Crow. So take him into our service, inspire him to reveal the weaknesses of his tribe. He may not even hesitate to give out all his King's secrets since he has fallen out of his favour.

Vakranasa

King, I too feel that Crow should

(IV Minister)

not be killed. But we can take advantage of them as they are in disarray. Let us wait for the right moment and strike at them.

**King Owl** 

: Prakarakarna, don't you have anything to say in this regard.

Prakarana

King as they all feel, the Crow should not be killed. Invite him though he is an enemy. We do not know what kind of relationship can spring. Perhaps a great friendship may arise and he may prove beneficial to us.

#### Raktaksha

I Minister

No! What ever you say I will not approve friendship with the crow. He should be killed. I insist upon my word.



#### King Owl

: Sorry friend. Every one feels he should be rescued and treated well. He is a refugee. According to Sastras, a person who ever comes seeking help and protection, should not be turned out.

#### Sthirajivi

(He was carried and brought before the King)

King, for my sake, I don't want any discord amongst you. If your people do not want you to save me, don't go against them. They are afraid that I may not be trust worthy. Forget everything about me and allow me to die in a fire, for I don't find any purpose living this useless life.

#### King Owl

Why do you choose fire to die.

#### **Sthira**

I believe if I die in fire, I will be reborn as an Owl. If it happens so, I can take revenge on Meghavarna.

#### Raktaksha

#### I Minister

: Don't tell me all this unbelievable things. Even if it happens, you will still be a Crow at heart. You will never feel comfortable with new form.

#### Other

Minister

: Let there be no further arguments in this regard. King, order the servants to take the Crow and provide all possible comforts.

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#### Raktaksha

I Minister

King we have really been fools. On top of it you are pampering our enemy. We were safe all these years. But now because of your foolish actions, I am afraid there is going to be a great disaster. You do as you wish. I want to leave. (Saying he walks out)

King Owl

O.K. Friends, now we will adjourn the meeting. (Turning to Sthirajivi) Friend, you take rest. My friends will provide you with comfortable accommodation. (Turning to servants) take him to the cave.

(Curtain falls)

\* \* \* \*



# (Rishyamooka Mountain. All Crows are seen happily living. Sthirajivi arrives at the spot where Meghavarna is sitting surrounded by his people)

Sthira: (Entering) O King I am your

minister. I have come with a

happy, goods news.

Megha: (Looking at him) welcome

minister. I am pleased to see you

back safe. What is the result of your

plan.

Sthira : Everything has gone smoothly

according to the plan till now. I

have made all arrangements to see

to their end. I have laid down lot

of small twigs in front of the Owls'

cave. I have told them that they

are for building nest. By now I think

there is huge heap of twigs. The

Owls could not guess for what I

am collecting.

Megha: Even I do not understand the

purpose of collecting twigs.

#### **Sthira**

O King, they will serve to light the funeral pyre for the Owls. All I want you to do is, ask your men to carry each one a burning twig in the mouth, and follow me.

#### Megha

: What do you do with these burning twigs.

#### **Sthira**

: Simply we will drop them on the heap of twigs laid at the mouth of the cave. Entire heap would catch fire and spread even into the cave where the whole tribe of Owls live. They will all be burnt alive.

#### Megha

: Wonderful! Wonderful! Let us all start immediately. Before the sunset we must finish our task. If delayed they would sense the danger and escape.

#### Sthira

: You are right. One of his minister Rakthaksha, from the beginning watching me suspiciously. He was the one to oppose strongly my friendship. But as the King and others did not heed his words, he has left the King and gone away. Though he has left, he is foreseeing the danger that may befall.

#### Megha

: If that is the situation we must hasten our operation.

#### (They all fly. In the back ground. There is lot of commotion Owls are shrieking)

Owls: O God! What is happening? We will be burnt. O King! Save us. We feel every where there is fire. No body to rescue us. We can't see. There is no way out. We are all trapped.

One Owl

O King this is all the result of your doing. Our wise minister, from the beginning is saying not to trust the Crow and give shelter protection to him.

O Raktaksha I am doomed and defeated. I did not listen to your advice. The result I am facing. Forgive me friend. Though your advice was harsh and bitter, inhuman, you proved right, your predictions came true. I should have listened to you. In the end they were victorious. We are dying! We are dying! We are dying!

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#### **Characters**

Monkey Crocodile (Male) Crocodile (Female)

(The scene is as the previous one. Vishnu Sharma and Princes are back to watch another play)

I Prince

Guruji Isn't it bad to kill the one

who gave protection?

V.Sharma

: Yes. In regular life what you felt is true. But for a King, conquering enemies, killing enemies in whatever manner, is an important thing. Nitisastra preaches such tantras or teachings or strategies to keep the Kingdom safe from enemies. Enemies must be put down by direct fight or cunningness. If we can't encounter by strength the only way left is

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cunningness. That is what the Crow did. Arimardana or the Owl was very strong. The only way left was what you saw! They can't see in the day time. Hence they chose to finish that particular time so that they can't escape.

Prince : O I see! Guruji today what kind of

play we are going to see? What is

the name of the play?

V.Sharma : Very interesting one! The play is

about a Crocodile and a Monkey. It

is called 'The Loss of Gains'

II Prince : What! Loss of gains what does

that mean?

V.Sharma: You watch the play, you will know.



(River Bank. A jumboo tree is seen on the bank. A big Monkey is sitting on a branch of the tree. A Crocodile crawls out of river, comes on to the shore. The Monkey watches it.)

Monkey : Hey! Who are you. Why have you

come on land leaving waters.

Crocodile : Hello friend. I am the Crocodile.

Today I did not find anything to eat. You seem to be a good fellow. There are lot of fruits on the tree, will you be kind enough to give some fruits to eat. I am too

hungry.

Monkey: O.K.! O.K! Don't plead so much.

Here are the sweet fruits. I will drop them one by one, you can

swallow.

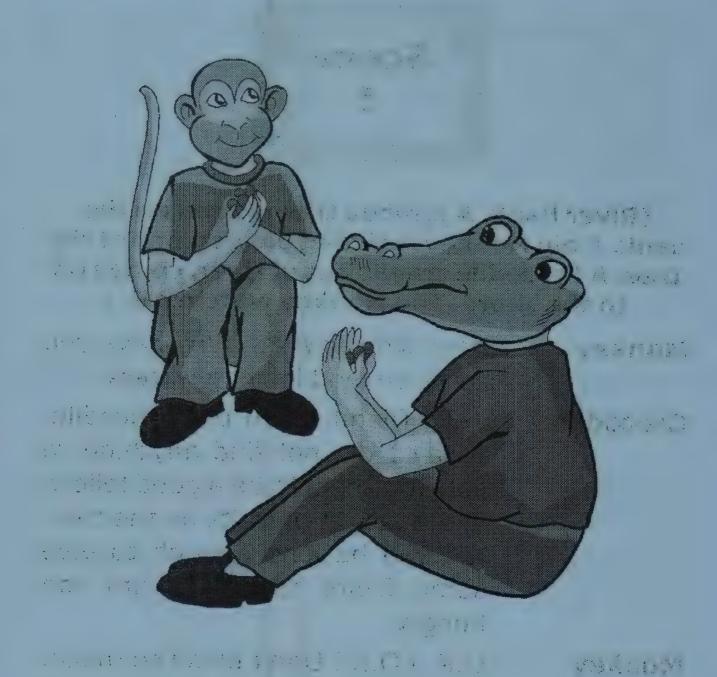
(Monkey drops the fruits, Crocodile enjoys eating them.)

Crocodile : Thank you friend. You have given

me such tasty food that I can never forget in my life. Would you mind

to take me for a friend and allow

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me to meet and talk to you every day. The Control of the Control

Monkey Yes certainly. I too am pleased to spend time talking to you.

Crocodile : Thank you I shall come again The state of tomorrow.

(Crocodile crawls into water and disappears.) 



## (On the river bank two Crocodiles are seen talking.)

Male Croco: Dear did you enjoy the sweet

jumboo fruits I gave you

yesterday?

**Female** 

Crocodile : Yes of course! How come we did

not know that such sweet fruits exist. By the way, how did you get

these today? Earlier, you never

brought me these.

Male Croco: No dear. Until my friend who lives

on tree top gave me these, I had

no idea that the tree has such

lovely fruits.

F. Croco : Did you not know this friend

before?

Male Croco: No... Not at all. Every day, though

I go on to the bank to warm up in the Sunlight, I did not notice either the Monkey or the fruits on the

tree. One day I felt very hungry, I

was looking here and there to see

if I can find some thing to eat. Suddenly I caught sight of the Monkey and pleaded to give me something to eat. With good and kind heart he gave me these fruits. While talking this and that, we became friends. Every day he would give me these fruits. I would enjoy eating them.

F. Croco

: So, without even remembering me you enjoyed. Isn't it? How faithless you are. You did not remember even once? Is that so? But any way, I will forgive you, only if you do me a favour.

**Male Croco** 

: Tell me dear, anything in this world, I can get it for you to prove my love.

F. Croco

: O I see! If so, listen to my request carefully.

Male Croco: Yes your highness! I am ready to obey your command.

F.Croco

: Does your friend live on these fruits?

Male Croco: Yes... Yes... This is the food for him. Every day he eats this meal.

F. Croco

How nice. If he eats these sweet fruits every day, his heart also must

be very sweet. So dear, if you love your wife, you get his heart for my dinner. Only then I believe, you love me!

Male Croco

Dear! Dear! What are you talking! He is my best friend. He has got great trust in me, more over I consider him not just as a friend but my own brother. How did such foolish idea come into your Mind?

F.Croco

I don't know all that, call it as foolish idea or any thing else. I want you to fulfil my wish. If you really love me, prove it by bringing the monkey's heart. I don't want to hear any of your explanations.

Male Croco

Don't insist on such cruel act. I cannot deceive my friend, and kill him.

F.Croco

Oh! Since when did you become so soft. You are talking as if you have not killed any one before.

Male Croco

That is a different matter. What ever you say I don't kill him.

F.Croco

(Sarcastically) Him! Or Her!!... I know I know. You don't want to kill the Monkey because, the Monkey is female and your lover.

You love her more than me. You spend the whole day with her. Now I know the reason, why don't want to kill her.

Male Croco: Don't be stupid. I don't have any lover of any kind. I swear, the Monkey is male. When I have such beautiful and loveable wife why you should I seek the love of any other woman.

: You may say hundred things to convince me. But I am sure, you love her too deeply. You don't want to hurt her. That is the reason, you don't want to bring the heart. If your friend is a male Monkey, what prevents you from getting me his heart. I am telling you dear unless you bring his heart I will not live. So you go now immediately and bring his heart. If you return empty handed, don't expect to see me alive. It is a warning, I am telling you.

Male Croco

(Within himself) I don't know what to do. She is very stubborn. Once anything comes to her mind, she will not leave until she gets it. But how can I be unfaithful to such a

nice friend who has been satisfying my hunger everyday, talking to me nice things of the world. Really I am in a fix. I do not know how to solve the problem. One side a great friend, another side my dear loved one, my wife !! Both are indispensable. I can't let down either of them. Oh God! Show me a way out!

(Curtain Falls)

\* \* \* \*



(River Bank. Monkey sitting on a branch. Crocodile is seen under the tree. There is silence. Monkey peeping down, notices his friend.)

Monkey: Hello friend! How come I did not

see you a for long time. Moreover, today you are looking sad and

depressed. What made you so?

M.Croco: What to say friend, these women

for some reason or the other, will be quarrelling with us. You can't

really know their mind.

Monkey: Just for that you are so much

upset? Oh! Come on friend. Cheer

up !!

M.Croco: You know friend, the reason for the

quarrel is so simple.

Monkey: Tell me exactly what is the reason

to be angry with you.

M.Croco: I feel ashamed to say.

Monkey: Why should you feel ashamed to

talk to a friend. You should never

hide any thing from your trusted friends, may be good or bad.

M.Croco: It is ofcourse good from one point. She scolded me because, I did not invite you home, though I was feasting on your fruits everyday. She told me that I have no courtesy to invite home such a good friend and extend hospitality.

#### Monkey

: How nice of your wife. She knows the value of friendship better than you. Definitely I should see such a wonderful lady.

: She has asked me to invite you home today. She has made lot of preparations to please you. She considers you as her own brother in-law.

#### Monkey

: I am really delighted brother and friend! When you are inviting me with such love and affection, how can I refuse! Friendship is a great thing in this world. You know friend, there are six kinds of friendship; giving and receiving in talking and listening; entertaining another and being entertained in turn. Your wife seems to know all these. That is

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the reason she wants to entertain

me.

M.Croco: Thank you friend for accepting our

humble invitation.

Monkey: Friend, I whole heartedly accept

your invitation, but there is a small problem... I live on a tree, you live

in water. How can I reach your

home?

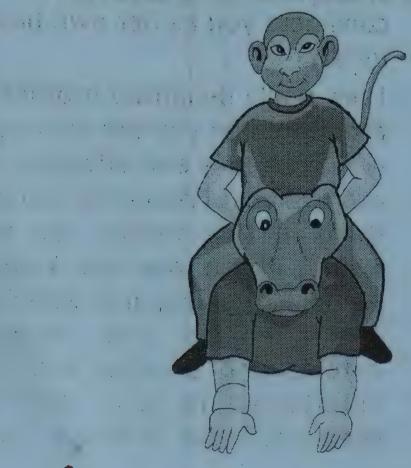
M.Croco : Oh! That is no problem, you sit on

my back. I will take you home.

KARATA BELEVISA

Monkey: That is a good idea.

(Saying sits on the back of the Crocodile. The Crocodile gets into the river. They sail for some distance. Suddenly Monkey observes that the Crocodile is silent and in tears.)



Monkey

: Friend, I see you are worried about something. You are crying. I notice the tears in your eyes. What makes you so?

M.Croco

: Friend, you must forgive me for I have cheated you, lied to you.

Monkey

: But how! (In surprise)

M.Croco

: I am taking you home not to offer hospitality but to kill you. The very thought of killing you is causing grief.

Monkey

: Killing! What the hell I have done to you. I thought you are a good friend; trusted friend. I was singing glories of friendship.

M.Croco

: I still am your friend. If I am killing you, not because of self but because of my wicked wife. Life has become unbearable. Ever since she tasted the jumboo fruits, she is insisting on eating your heart. She feels that your heart also must be sweet, may be more sweeter even !! That is why I am taking you with me. Forgive me friend for this sin.

Monkey

Don't talk like that, I will be offended. Being your friend if I don't come to your rescue in times

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of need, what is the use. How happy I feel when your wife gets solace by eating my heart. But friend, I am sorry, I don't have my heart with me right now. I have left it behind in the tree. Had you told me while we were on land, I would have taken it along with me. Even if we reach home it will be of no use because I don't have the heart now.

Male Croco: Really! Then what shall we do? If you have no regrets for giving your heart to my wife, I am pleased. I shall take you back to your place. You take your heart with you and come fast. I shall be waiting for you.

#### (They journey back to the bank. Monkey jumps out on to the bank and climbs up the tree.)

Male Croco: (Restlessly) Friend what are you doing so long. It is getting late. My wife would be very angry for delaying, come back soon we have to go a long way.

Monkey

(Peeping down) Did you call me friend! How can I be your friend? You have taught me a good lesson for being a faithful friend to you. If you were a real friend, you wouldn't

have thought of such horrible idea! Please go away. You are a fool to have believed my words. Can any one live without the heart within! I fooled you for fooling me and deceiving!! Good bye to you and your friendship. Don't ever misuse friendship for such ghastly purpose and lose a good and true friend for which you have to remain cursing yourself all through your life. Good bye to you once again.

Male Croco

Don't be too harsh on me my friend. I want to make amends for the sin, I have committed. Please do come home, relieve me from the burden of ingratitude. If you don't agree to come along with me, I will not go back. I will starve myself to death at the foot of this tree.

Monkey

I am sorry. For the second time, I don't want to get myself fooled and killed! But you were also a fool to have believed my words and talked your mind to me. I tricked you. But you did not understand. Hence I could spoil your plan. This proves the saying that a person with little intelligence, can never achieve success in their attempts. Hadn't

you told me the secret of taking me to your wife. You could have succeeded.

(Meanwhile shoutings are heard.)

Oh! Crocodile's wife had starved to death. No one to rescue her. The bigger Crocodiles have attacked the house. They have occupied. Alas! Alas!!

Monkey

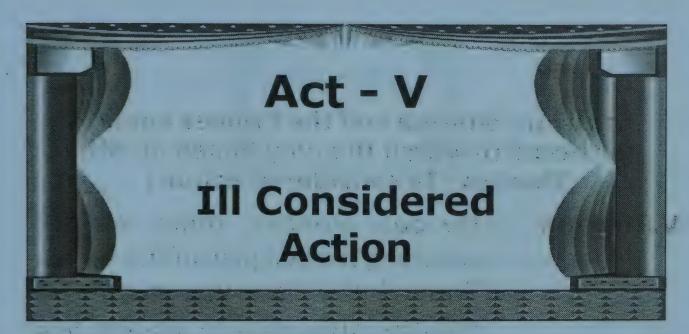
Did you hear friend what has come upon you? There is no use crying over things that already have happened. Now my sincere advice is to go home immediately and attend to the problems, retrieve your home if possible.

Male Croco : Alas! What has come upon me! What shall I do friend? I lost my wife! My home! And my dear friendship! Totally, I am ruined (cries bitterly)

Monkey

No use lamenting and wasting your time. Go immediately give a tough fight to other Crocodile, send him away before he ruins your home and you!

Male Croco: Thank you friend, despite my deceit, you have given me good advice. I am really grateful to you.



### **Characters**

Manibhadra:

Rich Merchant

Barbar Servant Judge

Monks

Gaurdians

## (Vishnu Sharma and the Princes again gathered to watch the play based on 5th Thantra - Ill considered action)

V.Sharma

My dear Princes, today we are watching the last play of the series. Through the plays you must have noticed what kind of people live around us. We must be careful and discrete in judging people and their actions. Many a times we don't have the patience to know the things properly and judge them. Simply and blindly we try to imitate their doings and end up in danger. After that even if we repent there will be no use and you have to face the result.

**Princes** 

: Guruji, then who are the ones who imitated and suffered.

**V.Sharma** 

: You are going to see all that in today's play. Let us watch.



## (Manibhadra, a rich merchant is seen sitting sadly. One of his servant coming close to him, pays respects and enquires)

Servant: Master, why do you look so

depressed?

Manibhadra: Friend, you know my position. How

rich and affluent I was. I helped every one who ever came asking some thing or the other, I have not disappointed them. It is my bad luck that I lost every thing and left penniless. No friends or relatives come to my house now, since they feel no use of me. All of them have deserted me, when I need their company and words of solace. Some how you have remained with me. But now I tell you to leave me and seek better place to earn your livelihood. I am so sorry, I cannot be any help to you.

Servant

Master, for so many years I have served you, eaten your salt. I have

been under your grace. Now how can I desert you and go?

Manibhadra: No friend. Your family and your life

is important. You go and search

for a job elsewhere.

Servant : Master though I have no mind to

leave you, to honour your order I

am leaving.

Good by master (leaves the places)

Manibhadra: What a fate is mine! After living a

life of sunny days, sudden break of gloom has unnerved me. No use of living this pitiful life. I must end

my life. This is the best solution

for my problems.

(Suddenly a voice is heard)

Voice : Manibhadra... Manibhadra... My

son, don't become so desperate, you have been a good hearted fellow. God is there with you, I have

come here to grant you a fortune.

Manibhadra: Sir, who are you? I can't see you.

Please appear before me. Why are

you so concerned about me? I want

to see you.

Voice : You cannot see me. I am your

fortune. Do as I tell you. Tomorrow

a Monk will come to your house,

you hit him on his head, he will turn into gold. Then onwards you can live happily, and you will be as rich as you were. (Voice fades away)

Manibhadra: (In surprise) Hope it is not dream! Did I really hear the voice? Should I believe the voice and follow the instruction! I really don't know what to do. Any way, let me try my luck. If tomorrow, all that is foretold happens, I will take it to be true and thank my stars.



## (Manibhadra restlessly and eagerly looking towards the door. He looks as if he is waiting for some one)

Manibhadra: Hope I am not a fool to have

believed the voice. Voice said morning! Yes it is now morning only. Why no one has come to my door. (At the same time his regular barber comes in as the door was

open)

**Barber** : Good morning sir!

Manibhadra: Yes... Yes.. Very good morning.

How come this early morning you

have called on me.

Barber : I was just going this way. Casually

I thought of visiting you and ask

you if I could massage your body.

Manibhadra: Well, if you wish you can.

(Saying this, frequently he glances towards the door)

Barber : Sir, are you waiting for some one?



Manibhadra: No! No! Simply I looked at the

door. (Meanwhile a Jain Monk

appears at the door)

Monk : Manibhadra... Manibhadra... I have

come for Alms. Don't you invite

me inside to give the Alms.

Manibhadra: (In surprise) Oh Bhagavan I was

waiting for you only. Please come

in and sanctify the poor man's hut.

(Monk with smile on his face enters. Right at that moment, Manibhadra takes up the stick and hits on the head of the Monk. Immediately, as if some magic has occurred the Monk turns into gold statue)

Manibhadra: Vow! Wonderful! The voice was

right.

Barber : Sir, what is this ! I can't believe !

For hitting, you got the gold in

return!!

Manibhadra: Hey friend, keep this secret with

you. I will reward you with as much

as you ask.

Barber : All right Sir. Give me the Money

you wish. I will go away.

Manibhadra: (Goes inside. A bag of gold coins

was given to barber). Now you go.

Barber : Thank you Sir. (Goes away)



# (A jain Monastery, few jain Monks are seen chanting prayers. Barber in the garb of a devotee enters the Monastery)

Namo arihanthanam
Namo ayarayanam
Namo siddanam
Namo uvajjayanam
Namo loye savvasahoonam
Salutations to you O holy ones

## Salutations to you O holy ones.

Senior

: Are you a stranger? Would you wish to join the Monastery.

Barber

No holy ones. Wandering from place to place searching for a Monk, I have come here to pray you come home with your company of Monks and dine with me. I want my house to be sanctified with your visit.

Monk

O devotee, we are pleased with your invitation ofcourse. But we are sorry we cannot come to dine. We are not like Brahmans to be invited

for meal. We are Jains. It is not in our custom to go to anybody's house to dine. We wander, visit house to house and collect food given in Alms from the first house only. We receive and collect only sufficient enough for a day's meal. So please excuse us and begone.

Barber

O holy ones, don't say so. I have collected many beautiful pieces of canvas which can be wrapped around your holy texts. I also have saved much money which I wish to give to the scribes who copy them! So please sir, I leave it to you to think it over (saying he leaves the place) and hides out side.

## (After some time, the Monks come out and search for the devotee, the Barber)

Monks : O devotee, where are you?

Barber : Here I am holy sirs, please do

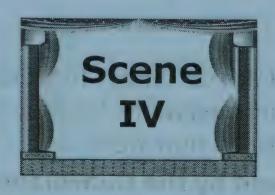
come, if you don't dine, you can atleast collect the money and the

canvas.

Monk : Alright devotee. If you are so much

insisting, we will accompany you.

(About six Monks accompany the Barber)



### (Barber's house. Monks are seated.)

Monk : O devotee, hurry up. Give us the

things you promised. We have to

go back to the Monastery.

Barber : Patience holy ones. I will go and

bring (goes in, brings a cudgel.

Raising the cudgel)

Here take this holy ones!

(Saying he goes on hitting on the heads of the Monks)

`Monks cry out ` O God he is cheat, he is killing us. Help!

(Monks are badly hurt. Some of them are bleeding heavily. Hearing the cries, guardians of the city rush to the place. They take the Barber who is hitting, into custody.)

**Guardians**: Hey what are doing? Are you mad?

Why are you killing and hitting the

innocent Monks? This is too much.

One of the

Guardian : Don't leave him. Let us take him

to the Judge. He deserves severe

punishment.

#### **Another**

Guardian

: Let us drag him to the judge immediately. He may try to escape. Hold him tight.

TOP AT STAN

(Barber is held by the Guardians. They all move out with the Barber held from both sides. Monks too follow them holding their injured heads.)

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(A Judge is sitting on a platform under a Banyan tree. Barber, Monks, Guardians are all standing around the Judge.)

Judge : (Asks the Barber) Who are you

man? Why the people are holding

you?

Barber : Sir, I am the Barber in this village.

I have been accused of hitting the

Monks.

Judge : O you know your crime? Tell me

what made you hit the Monks ?

Did they do anything wrong to

you?

Barber : No Sir.

Judge: Then why did you hit them?

Barber : Sir, to tell you honestly, I have not

done any thing intentionally. I just copied the act of my master,

Manibhadra.

Judge : (In surprise!) O Manibhadra what

a respectable man he is. Do you mean to say that he hit the Monk

and you simply copied!

Barber : Yes Sir, that is all I did.

Judge : I want to know the real truth of his

saying. Is Manibhadra here?

Manibhadra: (

(Coming to the front) My respects to you sir, I am Manibhadra. I suppose you know I was a very rich man of this town. But because of my bad luck, I lost all my wealth and became beggar like. I was disgusted with my life, hence I wanted to end my life. I decided firmly to die. But surprisingly I heard a voice saying that I should lose no hope, and I have the grace of God. The voice also said that next day morning a Monk would visit, and I should simply hit on the head of the Monk, he would into gold, then on my problems would be solved. I could not believe the voice, but yet I thought that there can be no harm or loss in testing the prediction. So I acted as it was predicted, and things proved true. At that moment of action this Barber was there. I told him not to reveal the secret to anybody. Though he did not let out the secret, he tried to imitate my

act with greed. This is all the truth sir, If you want you can inquire into the facts.

Judge

No my friend. I do not have any doubts about what you said. I know what you are. I have heard about your riches and character. This Barber is senseless. He has no brains. Without thinking properly if any one copies the actions of others, he is bound to face the situation like this. Ill considered actions would end up like this. Now I give my verdict - This Barber who blindly copying the merchant, has offended the innocents. So he shall be put to death at once!.'

(Guardians and others hail the judgement)

"Barber deserves this punishment. Long live the Justice!!"

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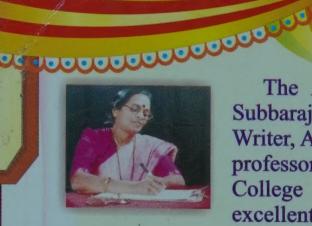
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The Author of this book Dr. Vijaya Subbaraj is a Professor Emeritus, Scholar, Writer, Artist and a very good speaker. As a professor of Kannada, has taught in MES College for more than 34 years. Her excellent teaching, commitment to the profession earned her 'Best Teacher' Award

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It is our good fortune that we came across such a scholar and an educationist and also a reknowned writer. When we requested her to write for children, the Epics Ramayana and Mahabharatha, and Plays of Panchathanthra, she willingly consented to write. Now in the series, Panchathanthra is before you. Hope you will receive this with delight.

We are thankful to her for writing our series inspite of her busy schedule.

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